

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4803

September 15, 2010

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Whitten Building, Room 200-A
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Vilsack:

On Friday, September 10, 2010, West Virginia Governor Joe Manchin III declared nine counties in West Virginia to be disaster areas due to damage caused by extreme drought conditions, beginning on April 1, 2010. The nine counties are: Berkeley; Grant; Hampshire; Hardy; Jefferson; Mineral; Morgan; Pendleton; and Preston.

We respectfully request your assistance in declaring these counties Federal disaster areas, enabling the area's farmers to immediately receive emergency aid to overcome this natural disaster. Farmers in this area are suffering extreme losses to both livestock and crops, and assistance from the Federal government is warranted.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter of great importance to us and our constituents.

Sincerely,



Carte P. Goodwin
U.S. Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV
U.S. Senator